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New York, 24 May-4 June 2004

Use of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 57/229, decided to establish a voluntary fund to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from the least developed countries, and invited Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund.[1]

2. Following the adoption of resolution 57/229, a sub-account of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability was created to receive contributions that have been earmarked for the above-mentioned purpose. As of 17 May 2004, contributions have been received from/pledged by eight countries for an estimated total amount of US$ 250,000.

3. The details of those contributions are as follows:

Country	*Amount*
Canada	CDN$ 70 000
China	US$ 5 000
Czech Republic	US$ 5 500
Denmark (*being processed*)	DKR 350 000
Mexico	US$ 20 000
Qatar	US$ 9 979
Sweden	US$ 62 803
United Kingdom (*being processed*)	US$ 3 000

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4. As of 17 May 2004, the status of disbursement of funds is as follows:

(a) An amount of US $29,502 was allocated to support the participation of five NGO representatives and experts including two assistants, to the meeting of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee that was held from 5 to 16 January 2004. They were nationals of the Philippines, Costa Rica and South Africa;

(b) An estimated amount of US$ 80,000 has been provided to 19 NGO representatives, including five assistants, to facilitate their participation in the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee. They are nationals of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

Notes

[1] In order to be eligible for financial support from the sub-account, NGO representatives must represent or be affiliated with NGOs that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or that have been accredited to a previous session of the Ad Hoc Committee.